



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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June 30, 2010

NEWS RELEASE

Christopher Vassalluzzo, D.O. was charged today by Indictment<sup>1</sup> with operating and profiting from an office that was in fact a “pill mill” that distributed millions of prescription controlled substance diet drugs outside a professional practice over the course of a decade in Northeast Philadelphia, announced United States Attorney Zane David Memeger.

The 102-count indictment charges that Vassalluzzo conspired to distribute and distributed prescription controlled substance diet drugs outside a professional practice, mail fraud, structuring and aggravated structuring of some of the millions of dollars in cash the pill sales generated.

Vassalluzzo, who had full-time jobs elsewhere for most of the period charged in the indictment, is charged with owning and directing the operation and reaping substantially all its profits, while he delegated the day to day operation of the office to his co-defendants.

The office staff, including Rita Claypoole, Robert Claypoole, Kathleen Gorden and Janice Fares, were also charged with drug trafficking and mail fraud.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR YEAR OF BIRTH
Christopher Vassalluzzo	New Hope, Pa.	56
Rita Claypoole	Southampton, Pa.	71
Robert Claypoole	Southampton, Pa.	75
Kathleen Gorden	Philadelphia	59
Janice Fares	Philadelphia	60

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<sup>1</sup> An Indictment is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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If convicted Christopher Vassalluzzo faces a maximum possible sentence of 1,490 years in prison, a \$28,250,000 fine, a lifetime of supervised release and \$10,200 in special assessments. His advisory guidelines range of imprisonment is 78 to 97 months. If convicted, Rita and Robert Claypoole each face 1260 years of imprisonment, a fine of \$17,250,000 , a lifetime of supervised release and \$6,700 in special assessments; Janice Fares faces 1240 years in prison, a \$16,250,000 fine, a lifetime of supervised release and \$6,300 in special assessments; Kathleen Gorden faces 1,235 years in prison, a fine of \$16,000,000, a lifetime of supervised release and \$6,200 in special assessments. The advisory guidelines range of imprisonment is in the range of 33 to 44 months.

The case was investigated by the FBI, IRS and DEA and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Pamela Foa.

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